

State SIC Board Elects New Members and Officers

The SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees welcomed three new members during their first meeting of the school year. Judy Wilson from Greenville and Ray Fleming from Aiken were elected to serve three year terms, while Jimmy Vereen, who hails from Mullins, was appointed to complete the unexpired term of Angela Page, who resigned from the board earlier this year.

Board members also elected Nell Stewart from Greenville to succeed Patrick Cobb as board chair. Anderson teacher Nancy Hanley was elected vice chair, the position previously held by Ms. Stewart.

The SC-SIC Board of Trustees are key contributors in accomplishing the organization's mission and the staff truly appreciate their commitment to improving education for all of South Carolina's children. "It is difficult to place a value on the experience, energy and wisdom the people on this board bring to the table," said SC-SIC executive director Dr. Jean Norman. "Our board members have a passion for civic engagement in public education and we are grateful for their service."

Nell Stewart was elected to the SC-SIC Board in 2002 and is a well-known and highly respected community activist in her hometown of Greenville. Ms. Stewart also serves on the boards of Communities in Schools of Greenville and the Roper Mountain Science Center.

When not volunteering in the community, Nell Stewart is owner and president of

Stewart's Unlimited, an emergency preparedness company.

Nancy Hanley was elected to the SC-SIC Board in 2004. Though she is relatively new to the board, Ms. Hanley quickly displayed her leadership ability and commitment to school improvement both at home and in Columbia. She has facilitated a highly successful mentoring program at Homeland Park Elementary School and developed a special training program for SICs in her district.



Nancy Hanley

Ray Fleming is actively involved in the Aiken school district where his four children attended public school. Now retired, Mr. Fleming was a health physicist and manager for the Savannah River Site for thirty years. He currently serves on the Paul Knox Middle SIC in Augusta where his granddaughter attends school.



Ray Fleming

Judy Wilson is an experienced SIC member who served on the Wade Hampton High and League Academy SICs in Greenville. She has also been very active with the state and local PTA. Ms. Wilson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of South Carolina and is currently the Director of Parents Programs at Furman University.



Judy Wilson

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See "Election" on page 2

Fall SIC Trainings Focus on Teambuilding

Three regional trainings scheduled for this fall will provide SIC members with skills needed to convene and maintain School Improvement Councils that really make a difference in their local schools and communities. Experts in teambuilding will share their skills in keynote addresses and workshops, and several additional workshops will support the theme, "Building Your SIC Team."

Leadership strategist Ann Elliott will give the keynote address focused on teambuilding during the Greenville and Columbia trainings. Ms. Elliott is the founder of The Berkana Company, LLC, which offers consulting and training in organizational development, including startup businesses, business management, team building and executive coaching. A similar address will be given at the North Charleston training by Dr. Connie Long. Dr. Long is Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership for the Beaufort County School District and was formerly with the Office of School Leadership at the SC Department of Education where she directed the Principal Induction Program.

SIC members from around the state can choose to attend training in any one of the
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Message from . . . the Executive Director

Knowing how to get information has become an essential tool in the learning process. It is true for students in our public schools and it is true for School Improvement Council members. To that end we have designed tools to help you access the information that will help you be an effective council member.

The School Improvement Council Handbook "The Basics" is the fundamental resource for all council members and it is available in print from your SIC District Contact or from this office. The handbook is also available in a video format, two PowerPoint versions, and in Spanish. Visit the SC-SIC website to access the PowerPoints, download a copy of "The Basics," or view the Spanish version in streaming video.

The SC-SIC staff has many resources available in more than one format – print, video, or on the website – sometimes all three formats. The SC-SIC website is an important means of access to a variety of the resources available from the office. Of special note is the **Council Update** series of programs initially broadcast via ETV and available in VHS format either at your school or from the local taping center or DELC. Click on the "SIC Technology Toolkit" link and visit the streaming video page to read descriptions of topics and view the program of your choice.

Access works best when it is a two-way street. The SC-SIC office needs information from you to help us provide you with services. This year SC-SIC will gather the required membership information online. Schools will send information about the SIC members to the district and the district will enter the information online through the SC-SIC website. Each school will be able to view the membership information and update the information as needed during the year. This new and improved data collection method will help us maintain a more complete mailing list of SIC members and get information (especially the *Council News*) delivered to you earlier in the school year.

We hope we have anticipated your needs and provided you with access to the information to meet those needs. Best wishes for a successful year.

Jean M. Norman

"Election"

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Jimmy Vereen (no photo available at press time) is the attendance supervisor for the Marion County Board of Education. A graduate of Morris College, Jimmy is active on a variety of local committees working on alcohol and drug issues, chronic disease and youth violence. He is also a member of the South Carolina Coach's Association and coaches football and basketball in the district.

Returning board members include: Wilbur Cave, Allendale; Patrick Cobb, Columbia; Gigi Dawson, Columbia; Dr. Bruce Field, Columbia; Candy Leggett, Sumter; Rev. Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Little River; Richard Mock, Charleston; Jeff Nicholson, Rock Hill; Tom Richardson, Moncks Corner; Thessa Smith, Greenwood; Maria Taylor, Greenville; and Bob Zuercher, Myrtle Beach. Please visit the SC-SIC website www.ed.sc.edu/sic to learn more about the board members. - *Cassie Barber*

Council News - Fall 2005



SC-SIC Board of Trustees

Nell Stewart, Chair - *Greenville*
Nancy Hanley, Vice Chair - *Anderson*
Patrick Cobb, Past Chair - *Columbia*
Wilbur Cave - *Allendale*
Gigi Dawson - *Columbia*
Dr. Bruce Field - *Columbia*
Ray Fleming - *North Augusta*
Candy Leggett - *Sumter*
Rev. Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II - *Little River*
Richard Mock - *Charleston*
Jeff Nicholson - *Rock Hill*
Gail Phillips - *Aiken*
Thomas Richardson - *Moncks Corner*
Thessa Smith - *Greenwood*
Maria Gregory Taylor - *Simpsonville*
Jimmy Vereen - *Mullins*
Judy Wilson - *Greenville*
Bob Zuercher - *Myrtle Beach*

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COUNCIL NEWS . . . is an award winning publication of South Carolina School Improvement Council. Circulation 17,500. Your comments and articles are welcome. Contact Cassie Barber, Editor at:

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The University of South Carolina system provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.

“Building Your SIC Team”

Locations and Dates

October 29 – Marriott Greenville
One Parkway East, I-85, Michelin Exit

Call 864-297-0300 for directions & accommodations

November 5 – Marriott Columbia
1200 Hampton Street (Hampton & Main St., downtown)

Call 803-771-7000 for directions & accommodations

November 12 – Sheraton North Charleston
4770 Goer Drive, I-26, Montague Exit

Call 843-747-1900 for directions & accommodations



Conference Agenda

All Locations

8:30 amRegistration and Breakfast Buffet
9:00 amWelcome and Keynote
9:45 amConcurrent Workshop Sessions
11:00 amBreak
11:15 amConcurrent Workshop Sessions
12:30 pmAdjourn

Keynote Address - Building Your SIC Team

Two experts in team building will provide an informative and inspiring start to the day, then offer an additional opportunity to share their expertise during a workshop. SIC members will enjoy learning team building skills from Ann Elliott in Greenville and Columbia; Dr. Connie Long will share her expertise during the North Charleston training.

Workshop Sessions (Choice of Two)

Building Your Team – How do you take a room full of strangers and turn them into a School Improvement Council that really makes a difference? Learn how to identify strengths of your individual SIC members and create a synergistic team that can get things done! *Hosted by the Keynote Speaker*

“The Basics” for Effective SICs – Based on the SIC handbook this workshop will answer questions for new and returning SIC members alike. New members: Do you wonder what roles and responsibilities you have? If you are in compliance with the law? Experienced members: Did questions arise within your SIC last year and you need answers? *Hosted by Diane Jumper, SC-SIC Council Specialist – Featured in BOTH concurrent sessions.*

Leadership for Effective Councils – This workshop will provide practices and techniques to convene effective meetings and become an influential voice for improvement in your school. Especially useful for chairs and returning SIC members. *Hosted by Dr. Jean M. Norman, SC-SIC Executive Director*

How We Became a Riley Award Winning SIC – Members of the SC-SIC board and staff will review the Riley Award application to help you maximize your entry and give you new ideas. You’ll have the chance to talk with SIC members who actually won the award or received honorable mention. View their winning applications! *Hosts vary by location*

View the “Corridor of Shame” – If you have not yet seen this incredible documentary, be sure to attend this session. Understand the issues behind the education equity lawsuit filed by eight rural school districts against the state of South Carolina. Find out how you and your SIC can help the “Corridor” schools. *Hosts vary by location*

“ Building Your SIC Team ”

SIC Fall Regional Training

- REGISTRATION FORM -

(One form per person, please!)

(Check the Date and Location You Plan to Attend)

____ October 29 - Greenville, SC (Registration/Cancellation Deadline: October 25, 5:00 PM)

____ November 5 - Columbia, SC (Registration/Cancellation Deadline: November 1, 5:00 PM)

____ November 12 - N. Charleston, SC (Registration/Cancellation Deadline: November 8, 5:00 PM)

(Please Print Legibly!)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

Email Address _____

Full Name of District _____

Full Name of School _____

My primary relationship to a School Improvement Council is:

() Parent () Teacher () Administrator () Student () Community Member () Other _____

Registration fee of \$15.00 includes breakfast and materials. **(Make checks payable to SC-SIC.)** No cash or credit cards accepted. Fee will be refunded only if cancellation date is met. If you send a substitute, please notify SC-SIC before the training if possible.

Payment Method (must check one)

() Will pay by check or money order at the training

() Check or money order enclosed

() District office or school will pay fee. PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER _____

() Scholarship Recipient. AUTHORIZED BY _____

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring final payment of my registration fee. I also understand that I am responsible for making arrangements with my school or district office if I expect them to pay my registration fee.

Participant's Signature (required) _____

You may FAX or MAIL your completed registration form.

FAX - 803-777-0023

ADDRESS - SC-SIC, USC College of Education, Suite 001, Columbia, SC, 29208

No registrations accepted after deadlines. Confirmations will be either by email or phone. Contact SC-SIC if you do not receive a confirmation by the day before the conference. No on-site registrations.

QUESTIONS? Call 800-868-2232 or 803-777-7658

"Trainings"

Continued from pg. 1

three cities: in Greenville at the Marriott on October 29; on November 5 at the Columbia Marriott; and finally at the North Charleston Sheraton on November 12. While the actual presenters will vary in each location, the same agenda will be repeated. This year's agenda features an important change. A full breakfast will begin the day and participants will enjoy the keynote address while munching on bacon and eggs. After breakfast SIC members will have the opportunity to attend two workshops and the day will conclude by 12:30 p.m.



*Ann Elliott -
keynote speaker in
Columbia and
Greenville*

"It's tough to give up a Saturday," says SC-SIC executive director Dr. Jean Norman. "We hope to ease the sacrifice by giving everyone a good hot breakfast and a lot of information in the morning, then sending folks on their way before lunch so they still have the afternoon for personal activities. It is important to respect our volunteers' time and we think this is one way to do that."

The fee for the training is \$15 including the hot breakfast buffet. SC-SIC has



*Dr. Connie Long
will give the
keynote address in
N. Charleston*

been able to keep the registration fee low thanks to a sponsorship from Parentwise, a US Department of Education funded program at Voices for South Carolina's Children. Additional funding from the Center for Truancy and Dropout Prevention at the SC Department of Education will provide two scholarships for each SIC at schools that have received an "unsatisfactory" or "below average" rating on their school report card. Council members seeking scholarships must indicate that the scholarship has been approved by the school's principal on their registration form. Check pages three and four of this newsletter for an agenda, registration form and deadlines. Bring your SIC team to a training this fall! - Cassie Barber










Council News - Fall 2005

SIC Action Timeline



October 15	SIC Elections completed
November 15	SIC membership info to SC-SIC
November 1 - 15	School Report Card
April 30	Report to the Parents
April 30	School Improvement Plan revisions (for Unsatisfactory schools only)
May 15 - June 15	School Report Card narrative submitted to SDE

SIC Actions:

August - December	Organize and conduct SIC elections, make community appointments
	Orient new SIC members, distribute SIC Handbook, view video
	Publicize all meetings, post minutes on website
	Review and analyze test scores (PACT, SAT, other)
	Review and analyze climate survey data from parents, students, teachers reported on School Report Card
	Review indicator data on the School Report Card
	Review target completion for Adequate Yearly Progress status
	Form committees to monitor implementation of plan strategies
	Attend SIC training by district and SC-SIC
	

Apply For the Riley Award!

SICs still have plenty of time to apply for the 2006 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award – the deadline for Level One applications is November 30. SC-SIC will offer a workshop to help you prepare your Riley Award application during each of the three fall regional trainings (see page 3). The SC-SIC website offers a variety of information when you click on the "Riley Award" link. You can download an application, view an installment of Council Update titled "How to Become a Riley Award Winning SIC" in streaming video, and learn about how other SICs have won this prestigious award. Visit www.ed.sc.edu/sic and click on "Riley Award" or call 800-868-2232 for more information.

New Installments of *Council Update* Ready!

Council Update is a program co-produced by SC-SIC and ETV to provide you with the latest information on a variety of topics of interest to SICs. Each program is 30 minutes or less, focused on a single topic, and can easily be used as part of your regular meeting agenda or for committee or other meetings.

Ask your SIC District Contact or School Media Specialist to tape the programs for you, or order one from your local DELC (Distance Education Learning Center). *Council Update* can also be viewed by computer on streaming video. Visit www.ed.sc.edu/sic and click on SIC Technology Toolkit for more information. Previous installments of *Council Update* are archived at this site. SC-SIC has a small inventory of the programs on videotape available for lending.

Air dates: Sept. 23, 2005; repeat Sept. 29, Channel 304
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

AYP, Choice, and Supplemental Services 2005-06

Find out about recent changes in the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB) outlined by Ellen Still, former deputy superintendent at the SC Dept. of Education.

SICs in Action - Family and Community Partnerships

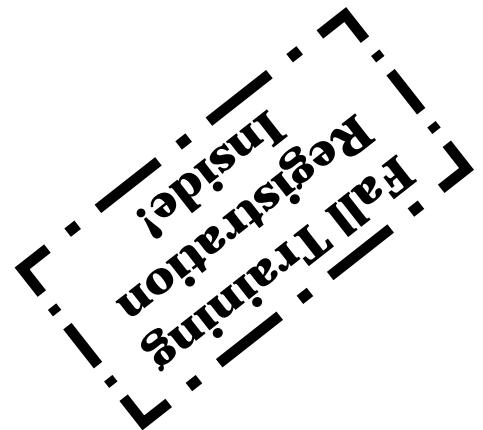
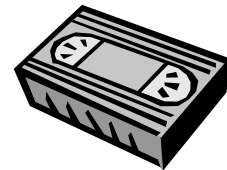
The Riley Award winning SIC at A.J. Lewis Greenview ES describes the many programs and practices they use to involve the parents and community in the lives of their students.

SICs in Action - Standard Code of Dress

How the SIC at Saluda Trail MS involved parents, teachers, and students in adoption and implementation of a standard code of dress.

Student Health and Fitness Act, 2005

The 2005 legislation to establish physical activity standards, nutritional health and wellness plans, and school nurses (in elementary schools) is presented by Lynn Hammond, director of SC Healthy Schools, SDE. The planning and implementation of the bill over the next 5 years presents councils with several opportunities to provide input for the required changes and for involvement in the planning process.



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